

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending. Claims 12-40 are withdrawn. By this Amendment claims, 1, 3-6 and 8 are amended. Support for these amendments may be found in Fig. 2 and paragraph [0036]. No new matter is added.

The Office Action requires Applicant to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits. Applicants elect the species of Fig. 10, related to claims 1-11.

The Office Action objects to claims 3 and 8. These claims have been amended to obviate this objection. Withdrawal of the objection to claims 3 and 8 is respectfully solicited.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Tashiro (U.S. 5,748,773); claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Tashiro in view of Kasutani (U.S. 7,236,652) and Sampath (U.S. 6,665,425); claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tashiro, Kasutani and Sampath in view of TIFF6 (TIFF Revision 6.0); claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Tashiro in view of Swann (U.S. 6,788,819); claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Tashiro in view of Chen (U.S. 6,941,121) and Maeda (U.S. 5,682,466); and claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Tashiro in view of Newman (U.S. 6,603,483) and Milton (U.S. 2003/0117639). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Tashiro discloses spatial characteristics of the printed image. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Tashiro does not disclose or suggest determining a spatial characteristic of the printed image from the scanned image data based on a positioning of at least one pixel relative to another pixel... and comparing the spatial characteristics of the scanned printed image with spatial characteristics associated with color characterization profiles, as recited in claim 1.

Tashiro discloses the formation of a histogram to determine whether an image is of a normal (dark text or information on a light background), reversal (light text or information on a dark background), or gradation (smooth or gradual change) type. See Tashiro Figs. 12-14.

Tashiro discloses making this determination by analyzing how frequent lighter and darker pixels are in a collection of samples from the image. See Tashiro column 8, lines 10-15; column 9, lines 17-21 and Fig. 7B. However, a histogram formed in this way does not reveal any spatial characteristics of the image based on the relative positioning of light and dark pixels. There is nothing in Tashiro, individually or in combination with the other prior art of record, which discloses or suggests determining a spatial characteristic of the printed image from the scanned image data based on a positioning of at least one pixel relative to another pixel and comparing the spatial characteristics of the scanned printed image with spatial characteristics associated with color characterization profiles, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Tashiro, individually or in combination with the other prior art of record, does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 1.

The Office Action asserts that Sampath discloses using test patterns to calibrate a document processing system. However, Sampath does not disclose or suggest comparing the spatial characteristics of the scanned image with spatial characteristics associated with color characterization profiles, as recited in claim 1. The Office Action asserts that Kasutani discloses associating the feature vector determined from an image with that image. However, Kasutani does not disclose or suggest comparing the spatial characteristics of the scanned image with spatial characteristics associated with color characterization profiles, as recited in claim 1. The Office Action asserts that TIFF discloses using a data structure that has private tags for storing spatial data. However, TIFF does not disclose or suggest comparing the spatial characteristics of the scanned image with spatial characteristics associated with color characterization profiles, as recited in claim 1. The Office Action asserts that Swann discloses statistically analyzing the scan of the printed image and determining spatial variations in the printed image based at least on the results of the statistical analysis of the scanned image data. However, Swann does not disclose or suggest comparing the spatial

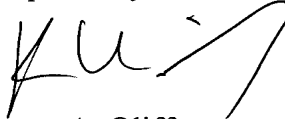
characteristics of the scanned image with spatial characteristics associated with color characterization profiles, as recited in claim 1. The Office Action asserts that Chen discloses using weighted combination of lookup tables for calibration. However, Chen does not disclose or suggest comparing the spatial characteristics of the scanned image with spatial characteristics associated with color characterization profiles, as recited in claim 1. The Office Action asserts that Maeda discloses having the weights determined by similarity. However, Maeda does not disclose or suggest comparing the spatial characteristics of the scanned image with spatial characteristics associated with color characterization profiles, as recited in claim 1. The Office Action asserts that Newman discloses having a user select a profile from a list. However, Newman does not disclose or suggest comparing the spatial characteristics of the scanned image with spatial characteristics associated with color characterization profiles, as recited in claim 1. The Office Action asserts that Milton discloses selecting candidate profiles from known or pre-selected profiles. However, Milton does not disclose or suggest comparing the spatial characteristics of the scanned image with spatial characteristics associated with color characterization profiles, as recited in claim 1. Thus, the prior art of record cannot supply the subject matter missing from claim 1.

In view of the above, Tashiro, individually or in combination with any of the above discussed applied art, does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 1. Claims 2-11 ultimately depend from claim 1. Thus, Tashiro, individually or in combination with the other prior art of record, does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1-11. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §1-11 is respectfully solicited.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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